

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a legendary public official
2 on December 4, 2012, when the Honorable Jack Bascom Brooks, one of
3 the longest-serving Texans in the U.S. House of Representatives,
4 passed away at the age of 89; and

5 WHEREAS, Elected to office 21 consecutive times, Jack Brooks
6 was a staunch advocate for the civil rights and labor movements and
7 an outspoken proponent of fiscal responsibility; he played a
8 pivotal role in the investigations of the Watergate and Iran-Contra
9 scandals, and his close ties to Lyndon B. Johnson placed him at the
10 president's side when he was sworn in, a moment that is preserved in
11 one of the most iconic photographs in American history; and

12 WHEREAS, Jack Brooks was born on December 18, 1922, in
13 Crowley, Louisiana, and raised in Beaumont; his father died when he
14 was only 13, and Jack worked to support the family as a carhop,
15 grocery clerk, and newspaper reporter; he attended Lamar Junior
16 College on a scholarship and later transferred to The University of
17 Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1943;
18 during World War II, he served his country as a member of the Marine
19 Corps; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Brooks began his career in politics in 1946,
21 when he was elected to the Texas Legislature; he represented the
22 citizens of Jefferson County for four years, during which time he
23 earned a degree from The University of Texas School of Law; in 1952,
24 he successfully ran for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The youngest freshman in his congressional class,
3 Mr. Brooks became a protege of House Speaker Sam Rayburn and then
4 Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, two eminent statesmen in
5 the powerful Texas caucus; a stalwart Democrat, he abided by his own
6 code of ethics, and he often broke ranks with his fellow Southerners
7 to support civil rights legislation; along the way, he developed a
8 reputation for being bold, irascible, and impervious to criticism,
9 the latter perhaps best expressed by his nickname, "Sweet Old
10 Brooks," which he acquired by co-opting a rival's insult; and

11 WHEREAS, On November 22, 1963, Congressman Brooks rode in the
12 motorcade that accompanied President Kennedy through downtown
13 Dallas, and in the tumultuous hours that followed the
14 assassination, he accompanied Vice President Johnson as he took the
15 oath of office aboard Air Force One; he remained a close friend and
16 supporter of the new president throughout his tenure; and

17 WHEREAS, Congressman Brooks led a number of committees and
18 subcommittees during his time in office, including the House
19 Committee on the Judiciary for six years and the House Committee on
20 Government Operations for more than a decade; he amassed an
21 extensive record of legislative accomplishments, which included
22 helping to author the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights
23 Act of 1965; ever loyal to the residents of his home district, he
24 worked diligently to secure funds for a number of local programs and
25 public works initiatives; and

26 WHEREAS, Congressman Brooks was seldom afraid to challenge
27 those in power; as a member of the judiciary committee during the

1 Watergate scandal, he helped draft the articles of impeachment that
2 prompted President Nixon to resign, and he was later involved in the
3 investigation of the Iran-Contra affair; he also worked to root out
4 wasteful government spending through the Inspector General Act and
5 the legislation that became known as the Brooks Act; and

6 WHEREAS, When this esteemed Texan concluded his tenure in
7 1994, he had served more than four decades in the Texas and U.S.
8 Houses; he continued to appear at local political events in his
9 retirement and watched with pride as Democrats that he had
10 mentored, including Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton, rose to national
11 prominence; over the years, he saw his legacy memorialized with
12 several Southeast Texas landmarks that bear his name: a regional
13 airport, a federal courthouse in Beaumont, and a park in Galveston
14 County, as well as a statue in his likeness at Lamar University,
15 complete with his trademark cigar in hand; and

16 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Brooks enjoyed the love
17 and support of his wife, the former Charlotte Collins, with whom he
18 shared a rewarding union of more than 50 years; he took great pride
19 in his children, Jeb, Kate, and Kim, and cherished spending time
20 with his family; and

21 WHEREAS, Unflinching in his principles and unyielding in his
22 dedication to his constituency, Jack Brooks made innumerable
23 contributions to the state and the country he loved, and the legacy
24 that he leaves behind will continue to inspire all those who assume
25 the mantle of public service; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Jack

H.R. No. 699

1 Bascom Brooks and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
2 family: to his wife, Charlotte Brooks; to his children, Jeb Brooks
3 and his wife, Janice, Kate Brooks Carroll and her husband, Rod, and
4 Kim Brooks; to his grandchildren, Matthew Carroll and Brooke
5 Carroll; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jack
10 Brooks.

Deshotel

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Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
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Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 699 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 4, 2013.

Chief Clerk of the House